



## SMOKING, ALCOHOL AND THE MISUSE OF DRUGS AND SUBSTANCES POLICY

This policy relates to all sections and activities of the school e.g. Senior School, Junior School (including EYFS), Wrap Around Care, Offsite Activities and School run Holiday Activities or Clubs.

### 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** This policy has been authorised by the Board of Governors and is available to parents and pupils on request. The policy relates to possession and consumption of alcohol and tobacco and the misuse of controlled drugs and other substances and applies to all pupils at Red House School irrespective of their age.
- 1.2** This policy applies at all times to the school premises (and surrounding areas), school transport, as well as school visits and trips, fieldwork and residential visits. The Deputy Head (Head of the Senior School) is the designated senior member of staff, responsible for smoking, alcohol and drug-related issues in school. The procedures and sanctions may be adapted as appropriate to meet the policy aims and the circumstances of each case. Some of the procedures can only be carried out during term time.
- 1.3** The policy aims to ensure that the approach taken on the issue of drugs is a whole school issue and reflects commitment to and concern for the health and wellbeing of the whole school community. Teachers will need to be confident and skilled to teach drug education and pupils need to receive up to date, relevant and accurate information, as well as support.
- 1.4** Sanctions for any drug-related incident will be consistent with the School's Behaviour Management Policy.
- 1.5** This policy should be read in conjunction with Red House's policies on:
- PSHE
  - Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)
  - Behaviour Management
  - Health and Safety
  - Child Protection (Safeguarding)
- 1.6** As a matter of course, all members of the school community are to be reminded of this policy at the start of each academic year.
- 1.7** This policy has been written based on the Department for Education and Association of Chief Police Officers 'DfE and ACPO Drug Advice for Schools'.

### 2 DEFINITIONS

- 2.1** Alcohol: means intoxicating liquor of all descriptions (including beer, cider, wine and spirits) and this policy covers obtaining, consuming, and supplying alcohol.
- 2.2** Drugs and substances: means controlled drugs and the paraphernalia of drugs or substances intended to resemble drugs, or 'legal' drugs (including 'legal highs') which can be obtained from a chemist shop, performance enhancing drugs, anabolic steroids, glue and other substances held or supplied in each case for purposes of misuse. This also includes any prescription drug, which has not been medically prescribed for the individual using it. This policy covers the possession, use and supply of such substances.
- 2.3** Tobacco: means any tobacco-related product and paraphernalia including cigarettes, cigars and pipes and any other smoking related products, such as, nicotine substitutes, electronic cigarettes (vapes), and 'snus' (a moist form of smokeless tobacco which is usually placed under the upper lip).
- 2.4** Smoke Free Policy: The School operates a Smoke Free Policy within its buildings, grounds and vehicles. The total smoking ban applies to the whole School community including employees, parents, governors, visitors, members of the public and others working in or using the School's premises or vehicles.

### **3 POLICY**

**3.1** The central aims of this policy are:

- To promote safety, welfare and good physical and mental health
- To promote a mature and moderate approach to the use of alcohol
- To reduce the risk of alcohol-induced misconduct in and out of School
- To prevent smoking and vaping in and out of School
- To keep drugs out of the School
- To help pupils to develop decision-making skills and to enable them to make healthy, informed choices
- To help young people to develop their self-esteem
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- To widen understanding about related health and social issues

**3.2** We have extensive education built into our Science, PSHE and RSE programmes, that focus on the effect and risks associated with alcohol and tobacco in relation to their health and wellbeing and will offer informed medical advice.

**3.3** Pupils are informed about the law surrounding such substances and that the use of illegal drugs is or may be a criminal offence and will be harmful to the health, integrity, independence, opportunities and careers, and will damage the society in which they live.

### **4 PASTORAL CARE**

**4.1** We encourage pupils to discuss in confidence any anxieties they may have about use of tobacco, alcohol or drugs and substance abuse with a member of staff or the School Counsellor.

**4.2** Matters brought into counselling by a pupil or his/her parents, in circumstances which are genuine, will be 'ring-fenced' from disciplinary sanctions, but a pupil who contravenes this policy will face disciplinary sanctions.

### **5 SCHOOL RULES**

**5.1** Pupils are forbidden from:

- Bringing the School into disrepute for any reason associated with tobacco, vaping, alcohol or drugs and substances, whether or not the pupil is in the care of the School at the time.
- Any possession, use or supply of drugs and substances.
- Bringing alcohol onto School premises or being in unsupervised possession of alcohol or obtaining or supplying alcohol to another, or being impaired by alcohol while on School premises or in the care of the School.

**5.2** Action will be taken when the welfare of any member of the School community or the reputation of the School is affected.

### **6 DETECTION**

**6.1** Every complaint, report, or observation in relation to tobacco or alcohol or involvement with drugs and substances will be followed up and investigated.

**6.2** A pupil suspected of such involvement may be externally suspended pending the outcome of an investigation.

### **7 LIASION WITH PARENTS**

**7.1** In any incident involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs and substances, the School will involve the pupil's parents and explain how they intend to respond to the incident and to the pupil's needs.

**7.2** If the School suspects that to do this might put the pupil's safety at risk, or if there is any other cause for concern for the pupil's safety at home, then the School will exercise caution when considering involving parents. Where a pupil may need protection from the possibility of abuse, the School's Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) should be consulted and the Child Protection (Safeguarding) Policy followed.

**7.3** Parents will be informed of any drug, tobacco, vape or alcohol-related incident by the Deputy Head (Head of the Senior School) or the Head, as soon as possible and a record will be made on CPOMS.

**7.4** Parents are encouraged to speak with a member of the teaching staff if they are concerned about any issue related to drugs, tobacco, vaping or alcohol and their child. Red House will refer parents to other sources of help, for example, specialist drug agencies or family support groups, as required.

**7.5** Any drug-related incident will be considered and managed individually and the school will employ a range of responses to deal with each incident.

### **8 SANCTIONS**

**8.1** When the investigation has been concluded, the Deputy Head (Head of the Senior School) or the Head will, on the civil standard of proof, namely, the 'balance of probabilities', make a finding of fact based on the evidence and supported by reasons in accordance with the School's Behaviour Management Policy.

- 8.2** If the Head's decision after considering all the material evidence is that the pupil has consumed alcohol/been using drugs or substances (as applicable), at the meeting or a later meeting if further investigation was necessary, the Head will consult the pupil and outline the range of sanctions they are considering, hear mitigating circumstances and consider the pupil's academic and disciplinary record and the extent to which he/she has co-operated, before deciding on the sanction.
- 8.3** Tobacco, vaping and alcohol: Sanctions will be applied in accordance with the School's Behaviour Management Policy. For a serious breach or persistent minor breaches, a pupil may be required to leave the School permanently.
- 8.4** Drugs: Anyone supplying drugs must expect to be expelled immediately even if he / she is about to sit public examinations. Anyone possessing or using drugs must also expect to be expelled. The Head will immediately inform the Chair of the Board of Governors so that a full discussion of the matter can take place before final action is taken.
- 8.5** Review: If the pupil is expelled, he/she and his/her parents have the right to request a review of the decision in accordance with the School's Behaviour Management Policy.

## **9 STAFF TRAINING**

- 9.1** Staff will be trained on how to recognise and manage issues involving tobacco, vaping, alcohol, drugs and substances.

## **10 PARENTS**

- 10.1** If Parents attending School premises appear to be under the influence of drugs or substances or alcohol, they will be asked to leave and the member of staff making the request should refer the matter to the School's DSLs.
- 10.2** If a member of staff suspects that a parent has driven or will drive whilst under the influence of drugs or alcohol, the member of staff should report the matter to the DSLs or a member of the Senior Management Team (SMT) who may telephone the police.
- 10.3** If the DSLs reasonably believe that a child is at immediate risk of harm from a parent who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs, the child will not be released into the care of the parent and the School's Child Protection (Safeguarding) Policy will be followed.

## **11 SEARCHES FOR TOBACCO, VAPING EQUIPMENT, ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND SUBSTANCES**

### **11.1 Searches with consent**

- 11.1.1** School staff can search pupils for tobacco, vaping equipment, alcohol, drugs or substances with their consent.
- 11.1.2** The member of staff will consider the pupil's age and other factors when determining whether the pupil is capable of giving his/her consent.
- 11.1.3** The member of staff will ensure the presence of a second adult witness during the search. Details of the search will be recorded on CPOMS.

### **11.2 Searches without consent**

- 11.2.1** The Head and staff authorised by the Head may search a pupil or a pupil's possessions without their consent where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that a pupil has tobacco, alcohol or drugs or substances in their possession.
- 11.2.2** The member of staff will ensure the presence of a second adult witness during the search. Details of the search will be recorded on CPOMS.

### **11.3 Police involvement**

- 11.3.1** Staff at Red House School are permitted by law to take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being an illegal drug for the purposes of preventing an offence being committed or continued in relation to that drug.
- 11.3.2** The School will request the involvement of the police from the outset if it is believed that the drug is an illegal drug. The illegal drug will be delivered to a person lawfully entitled to take custody of it.
- 11.3.3** If the police suspect that a pupil possesses or has stored drugs, substances or related paraphernalia, the police may elect to investigate using their own procedures or may pass the matter back to the School to investigate.

## **12 MONITORING**

- 12.1** This policy will be reviewed:

- Following any serious incident involving pupils and alcohol or drugs and substances
- Following the issue of any new guidance from the Department for Education (DfE)
- In any event, at least every two years

Reviewed by: Dr R Ashcroft and Miss C Thompson  
May 2024

Ratified by: The Board of Governors  
May 2024

## **APPENDIX 1: DRUG EDUCATION AT RED HOUSE SCHOOL**

Please note that the details below are examples of the drug education delivered at Red House School.

### **1 EYFS & KEY STAGE 1**

**1.1** Pupils are taught about the role of drugs as medicines. They are made aware of the dangers of drugs and alcohol, at home and at school, in relation to their personal safety.

### **2 KEY STAGE 2**

**2.1** Pupils are taught that tobacco, alcohol and drugs can have harmful effects.

**2.2** In the PSHE programme, Year 4 pupils discuss:

- Smoking and medicines in relation to their bodies and general health issues

**2.3** In the PSHE programme, Year 5 pupils discuss:

- The basic facts about smoking
- The effects of alcohol
- Drugs – what are they?

**2.4** In the PSHE programme, Year 6 pupils consider:

- Smoking – what does it do to your body?
- Medical issues connected to drug taking
- What to do if someone puts pressure on you to try a substance
- Alcohol – the effects it can have on people's lives

**2.5** In Key Stage 2 Science, pupils consider:

- The effects on the body of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs
- How these drugs relate to personal health

### **3 KEY STAGE 3**

**3.1** Pupils are taught that abuse of alcohol, solvents, tobacco and other drugs affects health; that the body's natural defences may be enhanced by immunisation and medicines; that smoking affects lung structure and gas exchange.

**3.2** In the RSE/PSHE programme, Year 7 pupils consider:

- Social drugs, medicinal drugs, illegal drugs
- Connection between drugs and crime
- Why do people start taking drugs?

**3.3** In the RSE/PSHE programme, Year 8 pupils consider:

- Teenage drinking
- Drugs and drug taking – fact and fiction
- Drugs and the law

**3.4** In the RSE/PSHE programme, Year 9 pupils consider:

- Drug taking, solvent abuse – emergency action
- How dangerous is drug taking?
- How to help a friend with a drugs problem

**3.5** In the Science programme, Year 7-9 pupils consider:

- The role of lung structure in gas exchange, including the effects of smoking
- How the abuse of alcohol, solvents and other drugs affects health
- How the body can be helped by immunisation and prescribed medicines

### **4 KEY STAGE 4**

**4.1** Pupils are taught the effects of solvents, tobacco, alcohol and other drugs on body functions.

**4.2** In the RSE/PSHE programme, Year 10 pupils consider:

- Create a drugs factfile
- Why young people use drugs?
- The law regarding drugs

**4.3** In the RSE/PSHE programme, Year 11 pupils consider moral issues regarding drugs.

**4.4** In the GCSE Science programme, Year 10-11 pupils consider and learn about:

- The effects of solvents, alcohol, tobacco and other drugs on body functions
- Evaluate different types of drugs and why some are used for recreation
- Consider the effects of cannabis on health
- Look at the link between tobacco and lung cancer
- Consider the methods used to try to stop smoking
- Learn that some drugs change chemical processes so that they can be addictive, e.g. heroin, cocaine, nicotine
- Examine the damage caused by alcohol

**4.5** In the GCSE PE syllabus, Year 10-11 pupils consider and learn about:

- The effects of performance enhancing drugs
- Anabolic steroids, narcotic analgesics, beta blockers, stimulants

## APPENDIX 2: USEFUL LINKS AND ORGANISATIONS

**Addaction** is one of the UK's largest specialist drug and alcohol treatment charities. As well as adult services, they provide services specifically tailored to the needs of young people and their parents. The Skills for Life project supports young people with drug misusing parents.

Website: [www.addaction.org.uk](http://www.addaction.org.uk)

**ADFAM** offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services.

Tel: 020 7553 7640

Email: [admin@adfam.org.uk](mailto:admin@adfam.org.uk)

Website: [www.adfam.org.uk](http://www.adfam.org.uk)

**Alcohol Concern** works to reduce the incidence and costs of alcohol-related harm and to increase the range and quality of services available to people with alcohol-related problems.

Tel: 020 7264 0510.

Email: [contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk](mailto:contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk)

Website: [www.alcoholconcern.org.uk](http://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk)

**ASH (Action on Smoking and Health)** A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco.

Tel: 020 7739 5902

Email: [enquiries@ash.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ash.org.uk)

Website: [www.ash.org.uk](http://www.ash.org.uk)

**Children's Legal Centre** operates a free and confidential legal advice and information service covering all aspects of law and policy affecting children and young people.

Tel: 01206 877910

Email: [clc@essex.ac.uk](mailto:clc@essex.ac.uk)

Website: [www.childrenslegalcentre.com](http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com)

**Children's Rights Alliance for England** - A charity working to improve the lives and status of all children in England through the fullest implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Email: [info@crae.org.uk](mailto:info@crae.org.uk)

Website: [www.crae.org.uk](http://www.crae.org.uk)

**Drinkaware** - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm.

Tel: 020 7307 7450

Website: [www.drinkaware.co.uk/](http://www.drinkaware.co.uk/)

**Drinkline** - A free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking.

Tel: 0800 917 8282 (lines are open 24 hours a day)

**Drug Education Forum** - this website contains a number of useful papers and briefing sheets for use by practitioners.

Website: <http://www.drugeducationforum.com/>

**DrugScope** is a centre of expertise on illegal drugs, aiming to inform policy development and reduce drug-related risk. The website includes detailed drug information and access to the Information and Library Service. DrugScope also hosts the Drug Education Practitioners Forum.

Tel: 020 7520 7550

Email: [info@drugscope.org.uk](mailto:info@drugscope.org.uk)

Website: [www.drugscope.org.uk](http://www.drugscope.org.uk)

**FRANK** is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs.

24 Hour Helpline: 0800 776600

Email: [frank@talktofrank.com](mailto:frank@talktofrank.com)

Website: [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)

Schools can receive free FRANK resource materials, updates and newsletters by registering at

<http://ddshl.broadssystem.com/freeleaflets.aspx>

**Mentor UK** is a non-government organisation with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives.

Tel: 020 7739 8494

Email [admin@mentoruk.org](mailto:admin@mentoruk.org)

Website: [www.mentoruk.org.uk](http://www.mentoruk.org.uk)

**National Children's Bureau** promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives.

Tel: 020 7843 6000

Website: [www.ncb.org.uk](http://www.ncb.org.uk)

**Family Lives** - A charity offering support and information to anyone parenting a child or teenager. It runs a free-phone helpline and courses for parents, and develops innovative projects.

Tel: 0800 800 2222

Website: <http://familylives.org.uk/>

**Re-Solv (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse)** A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents and young people.

Tel: 01785 817885

Information line: 01785 810762

Email: [information@re-solv.org](mailto:information@re-solv.org)

Website: [www.re-solv.org](http://www.re-solv.org)

**Smokefree** - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0800 169 0 169

Website: <http://smokefree.nhs.uk>

**Stars National Initiative** offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse.

Website: [www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk](http://www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk)